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at 9.30 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 6th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. FREITAS do AMARAL
(President of the General Assembly)

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The meeting was called to order at 9.45 a.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA OF THE FIFTIETH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND ALLOCATION OF ITEMS (continued)

Allocation of agenda item 164

1. The CHAIRMAN recalled that, at its second meeting, the Committee had decided to defer its recommendation on the allocation of agenda item 164 entitled "Normalization of the situation concerning South Africa", pending the outcome of negotiations.

2. The representative of South Africa had asked to address the Committee on the matter in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

3. At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Jele (South Africa) took a place at the Committee table.

4. Mr. JELE (South Africa) said that, since the previous meeting of the Committee to consider the allocation of agenda item 164, his delegation had consulted all interested parties with a view to finding a consensus solution, and a compromise agreement had been reached on the procedure to be followed. It had been agreed that, owing to the political importance of the item, its consideration would be taken up in plenary meeting. Following the allocation of the item to the plenary Assembly, the President of the General Assembly would invite the Fifth Committee to furnish technical observations on the implementation of the draft resolution under agenda item 164 within a specified time-frame. Once those observations had been received by the plenary Assembly, the General Assembly would take action on the draft resolution.

5. Mr. REYN (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that, because of the complex nature of the matter, lengthy consultations had been held; the members of the European Union fully supported the compromise solution described by the representative of South Africa.

6. Mr. BELHIMEUR (Algeria), Mr. BAKALA (Congo), Mr. MUTHAURA (Kenya), Mr. AL-AWDI (Kuwait), Mr. KITTIKHOUN (Lao People's Democratic Republic), Mr. ERDENECHULUUN (Mongolia), Mr. PETRESKI (The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and Mr. SALLAM (Yemen) said that they also supported that compromise solution.

7. Ms. WILMSHURST (United Kingdom) said that her delegation, which had made the request at the Committee's second meeting that the consideration of the allocation of agenda item 164 should be deferred for a few days, fully supported the compromise reached.

8. Mr. WANG Xuexian (China) said that, in view of the unique historical background of South Africa's accumulated arrears and the efforts under way to build a new South Africa, his delegation sympathized with the request for cancellation of the arrears. It therefore supported the proposal that agenda

item 164 should be assigned to the plenary Assembly for consideration, and hoped that the General Assembly would take the appropriate decisions.

9. Mr. LEGAL (France) said that his delegation supported the statement made by the representative of Belgium on behalf of the European Union and was fully satisfied with the compromise formula. The legitimacy of South Africa's request had never been in question. However, the question was unique and unprecedented, and the General Assembly needed to indicate to the Secretariat how the accounting operation that would be required should be carried out. With guidance from the Fifth Committee on the technical details of that operation, it would be possible to take an appropriate decision in plenary meeting.

10. The CHAIRMAN, recapitulating what had been agreed in the consultations, said that the political importance of item 164 warranted its consideration, and action on it, directly by the plenary Assembly. Owing to the financial complexity of the item, it was appropriate for the Fifth Committee, in consultation with the Secretariat, to provide the plenary with technical observations on the implementation of the draft resolution to be adopted by the General Assembly to write off the South African arrears relating to the period between 30 September 1974 and 23 June 1994. The Chairman of the Fifth Committee would be requested to transmit the Fifth Committee's observations to the President of the General Assembly by 12 December 1995 in order to enable the General Assembly to take action on 15 December 1995.

11. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that given its political importance, agenda item 164 should be considered in plenary meeting, on the understanding that, owing to the financial complexity of the matter, the Fifth Committee would be invited to provide technical observations regarding the implementation of any draft resolutions to be submitted for action by the General Assembly in plenary meeting.

12. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the Fifth Committee should submit its technical observations by 12 December 1995.

The meeting rose at 10.05 a.m.